

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A continuous casting plant of a metallic strip comprising a casting plane, a casting station and a plurality of further stations substantially separated from said casting station and, in said casting station, a mobile ingot mould comprising two cylindrical, cooled, counter-rotating rolls and two plates each of which is set at the ends of said rolls, to close at the sides of said rolls the space between them, said rolls defining, between their respective facing surfaces, a space inside which molten metal is cast and solidifies upon contact with the surface of said rolls and is then extracted from below as a hot metal strip, ~~and~~ said continuous casting plant further comprising:

at least one tundish and at least one under-tundish;

at least one turret set on the casting plane adjacent to a side of the casting station, said turret having first and second pivoting arms;

preheating stations for preheating said tundish and/or under-tundish, the preheating stations being disposed on the casting plane adjacent to the turret within reach of said pivoting arms;

wherein the first and second pivoting arms are operative to traverse respective said tundish and said under-tundish from the pre heating stations to the casting station.

~~comprising a plurality of further component elements, treatment stations for said additional component elements, and moving means for moving each of said additional component elements, wherein said treatment stations are all set on the casting plane, said further component elements being moved between their respective treatment stations and said casting station by rotating arms located on at least one turret, said turret being set on the casting plane.~~

2. (currently amended) The plant according to claim 1, wherein there are provided two turrets is located adjacent ~~close to~~ one side of the casting station, one tundish, one replacement tundish, one undertundish and one replacement undertundish, and the pivoting arms of the turrets are operative to traverse the replacement tundish and replacement undertundish from the preheating station to the casting station after the tundish and under tundish are removed for maintenance.

3. (Original) The plant according to claim 1, wherein two additional turrets are placed adjacent to the casting station, on a plane parallel to the one containing the cast strip.

4. (currently amended) The plant according to claim 2, ~~wherein said further component elements, moved in casting position by rotating arms comprise~~ further comprising a

ladle, ~~at least one tundish and/or at least one under tundish~~ or an unloading device, and/or at least one molten metal distributor within said space between said counter-rotating rolls moved into a casting position by pivoting arms.

5. (cancelled)

6. (Original) The plant according to claim 3, wherein the additional turrets are provided with robotic arms suitable to move said molten metal distributor nozzle and said lateral plates from their respective treatment stations to said casting station.

7. (Original) The plant according to claim 1, wherein the casting rolls are set in a transversally movable trolley suitable to slide transversally to the casting direction between a treatment station and said casting station, said trolley being provided with means to place and hold in position said rolls and to adjust the gap between them in order to control the thickness of the cast strip.

8. (Original) The plant according to claim 1, wherein the casting plane further comprises a tundish rotating turret suitable to put the ladle in casting position, said tundish rotating tower being preferably arranged in a central position with respect to the turrets for moving the tundish and under-tundish.

9. (Currently Amended) The plant according to claim 1, ~~wherein there are provided~~ further comprising means for collecting wastes of slag and metal and means for movement thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The plant according to claim 1, ~~wherein the treatment stations comprise~~ further comprising unloading device and plates preheating stations are with electric resistances.

11. (Currently Amended) The plant according to claim 1, ~~wherein the treatment stations comprise~~ further comprising unloading device and plates preheating stations with burners.

12. (Currently Amended) The plant according to claim 1, ~~wherein the treatment stations comprise~~ further comprising unloading device and plates preheating stations with microwaves.